

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21, and 23-30 as set forth below. Please cancel previously presented Claims 2, 12, and 22. Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~process for~~ method of producing and delivering streams of content, comprising the steps of:

periodically querying a database for a playlist for each of a plurality of stations, wherein each playlist is associated with content, wherein the content includes multiple tracks;

receiving the playlists from the database based upon the periodic querying;

analyzing each of the received playlists to determine content that is already locally-cached on a local disk, and content that needs to be retrieved from a content source;

~~fetching~~ retrieving the content that needs to be retrieved for each of the received playlists from the content source;

~~locally-caching the fetched-retrieved content on the local disk;~~

for each of the stations, concatenating the ~~cached~~ content associated with a playlist corresponding to the station into a stream of content~~for each of the stations, based on the received playlist for each of the stations;~~

for each of the stations, feeding-providing a buffer of a plurality of buffers with the stream of content corresponding to the station;~~and~~

upon receiving a request for one or more of the streams of content, transmitting the requested one or more streams of the content from one or more of the plurality of buffers to at least one distribution point for relaying to at least one client terminal; and

in response to a disruption in the retrieval from the content source of content associated with a first playlist corresponding to a first station, wherein a first stream of content corresponds to the first station:

continuing to advance through tracks of the first playlist;

copying a first track of the first playlist from the local disk to a memory cache prior to reaching a last track of the first playlist;
linking the last track of the first playlist to the first track of the first playlist to loop at least some of the tracks of the first playlist in the first stream of content; and
transmitting the first stream of content containing the looped tracks of the first playlist to the at least one distribution point for relaying to the at least one client terminal.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~method of ~~Claim~~ 21, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~checking for new items in~~tracks of the first playlist as transmission of each of the tracks of the first playlist finishes streaming; and
~~stopping the looping if when there are new items in~~tracks of the first playlist, to resume resuming normal streaming transmission of the first stream of content.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~method of ~~Claim~~ 1, wherein the ~~content comprises~~multiple tracks include audio content.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~method of ~~Claim~~ 1, wherein the ~~content comprises~~multiple tracks include video content.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~method of ~~Claim~~ 1, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~
providing metadata associated with the content[[,]]; and
integrating the metadata with at least one of the one or more streams of content.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-method~~ of Gclaim 6, wherein the metadata ~~comprises~~ includes content duration information.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-method~~ of Gclaim 6, wherein the metadata ~~comprises~~ includes content time remaining information.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-method~~ of Gclaim 1, wherein the at least one client terminal ~~comprises any~~ includes at least one of a computer, a mobile device, a microprocessor-based device, a portable digital assistant, and a network enabled receiver.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-method~~ of Gclaim 1, wherein at least one of the requested one or more streams of content is transmitted at a rate that is matched to a rate of play at the at least one client terminal.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~process-form~~ method of producing and delivering streams of content, comprising the steps of:

periodically querying a database for a multiple playlists ~~for each of a plurality of~~
corresponding to multiple stations, wherein a playlist is associated with
multiple items of content;

receiving the multiple playlists from the database ~~based upon the periodic query;~~
analyzing ~~each of the received~~ multiple playlists to determine items of content
that ~~is~~ are already locally cached in a memory cache, and items of content
that ~~needs to be~~ retrieved;

~~fetching~~ retrieving items of content that needs to be retrieved for each of the
received playlists;

locally storing the fetched retrieved items of content to a local disk;

~~copying the stored fetched content to the memory cache;~~

for at least a first station, concatenating the cached items of content from the
memory cache into a first stream for each of the stations based on the
received a first playlist for each of corresponding to the first stations;

for ~~each of~~ at least the first stations, ~~feeding a buffer of a plurality of providing~~
one or more buffers with the first stream ~~corresponding to the station;~~ and
upon receiving a request for ~~one or more of the~~ first streams, delivering the first
streams of content from the one or more buffers to at least one distribution
point for ~~relaying delivery~~ to at least one client terminal; and
when retrieval of new items of content is disrupted:

continuing to advance through the first playlist for at least the first stream;
caching a first item of content of the first playlist into memory prior to
reaching a last item of content of the first playlist;
linking the last item of content of the first playlist to the first item of content
of the first playlist in order to repeat at least one of the items of
content in the first stream; and
delivering the first stream to the at least one distribution point for delivery
to the at least one client terminal.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~ method of Claim 12, further
comprising ~~the steps of:~~

checking for new items in of content of the first playlist as delivery of each of the
tracks ~~items of content of the first playlist finishes streaming;~~ and
~~stopping the looping if there are new items in of content of the first playlist, to~~
resumeresuming normal streaming delivery of the content first stream.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~ method of Claim 11, wherein the
items of content comprises include audio content.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~ method of Claim 11, wherein the
items of content comprises include video content.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-method~~ of Claim 11, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

providing metadata associated with the content~~[[,]]~~; and
integrating the metadata with at least one of the first streams.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-method~~ of Claim 16, wherein the metadata ~~comprises~~ includes content duration information.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-method~~ of Claim 16, wherein the metadata ~~comprises~~ includes content time remaining information.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-method~~ of Claim 11, wherein the at least one client terminal ~~comprises any~~ includes at least one of a computer, a mobile device, a microprocessor-based device, a portable digital assistant, and a network enabled receiver.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~process-method~~ of Claim 11, wherein at least one of the first streams of content is transmitted at a rate that is matched to a rate of play at the at least one client terminal.

21. (Currently Amended) A stream source content delivery system, comprising:

means for periodically querying a database for a multiple playlists ~~for each of a plurality of corresponding to multiple stations, wherein a playlist is associated with multiple content items;~~

means for receiving the multiple playlists from the database ~~based on the periodic query;~~

means for a local disk associated with the system for locally storing content items;

~~means for analyzing each of the received playlists to determine content items that is-are already locally stored by the means for locally storing content items, and content items that needs to be retrieved;~~
~~means for periodically fetchingretrieving content items that needs to be retrieved for each of the received playlists;~~
~~a memory cache for copying the stored and received content;~~
~~means for concatenating the content items from the memory cache into a first stream for each of the at least a first stations based on the received a first playlist for each of corresponding to the first stations;~~
~~a plurality of buffersmeans for buffering data;~~
~~for each of the stations, means for feeding a buffer of the plurality of buffers providing the means for buffering data with the first stream corresponding to the station;~~
~~means for receiving a request for one or more of the first streams;-and~~
~~means for delivering the first streams of content from the means for buffering data buffers to at least one distribution point upon receipt of in response to the request, for relaying delivery from the distribution point to at least one client terminal; and~~
~~when retrieval of new content items is disrupted:~~
~~means for continuing to advance through the first playlist for at least the first stream;~~
~~means for caching a first content item of the first playlist into memory prior to reaching a last content item of the first playlist;~~
~~means for repeating at least the first content item of the first playlist in the first stream after the last content item of the first playlist is reached;~~
~~and~~
~~means for delivering the first stream to the at least one distribution point for delivery to the at least one client terminal.~~

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 22~~21~~, further comprising:
means for checking for new content items in of the first playlist as delivery of
each of the tracks~~content items of the first playlist finishes streaming~~; and
means for ~~stopping-resuming normal delivery of the first stream~~~~the looping if~~
there are new content items in of the first playlist, to resume normal
streaming of the content.
24. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 21, wherein the content
~~comprises items include~~ audio content.
25. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 21, wherein the content
~~comprises items include~~ video content.
26. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 21, further comprising:
means for integrating metadata associated with the content and integrated items
within at least one of the first streams.
27. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 26, wherein the metadata
~~comprises includes~~ content duration information.
28. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 26, wherein the metadata
~~comprises includes~~ content time remaining information.
29. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 21, wherein the at least one
client terminal ~~comprises any~~includes at least one of a computer, a mobile device, a
microprocessor-based device, a portable digital assistant, and a network enabled
receiver.
30. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 21, wherein the ~~a~~
transmission rate of at least one of the first streams of content is matched to a rate of
play at the at least one client terminal.